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SBA's Monthly News Update

-Serving Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming-

Newsline Eight is circulated to our resource and lending partners by SBA's Region Eight Office
721 19th Street, Suite 400, Denver, Colorado 80202.

Elton W. Ringsak, Regional Administrator

James R. Henderson, Regional Advocate

Christopher Chavez, Regional Communications Director

Carol Helm, Regional Office Manager

Lawrence Kiefer, FITS

Regional Administrator's Update by Elton "Mick" Ringsak



Congratulations to all 2006 SBA Region Eight Employee of the Year winners.

It is my honor to introduce you to our 2006 SBA Region Eight Employee of the Year winners. Each winner is representative of the tremendous people we have at the SBA. Our employees continue to perform admirably in the face of lower staffing levels and reduced office budgets. I want to personally congratulate each winner for their hard work and dedication to the small business community. In many cases these individuals perform multiple functions in their office. With out

their hard work – and the hard work of all employees in this region – our mission would not be accomplished. Congratulations!

Wyoming



Steve Lobdell named the Region VIII Employee of the Year.

Steve has been with the agency for 20 years and currently serves as the Wyoming DO's District Counsel. He started in the Helena, Montana District Office in 1986. After transferred to the Spokane, WA District Office in 1997 he made the move to the Wyoming SBA office in 2004. Steve is a native of Missoula, Montana. He has been married for 34 years and has three daughters and a son ages 14, 22, 24 and 27. He constantly brags about his

two grandsons - ages four and five. "I like doing carpentry work and have built and remodeled several houses over the years. I built our house in Helena and spent seven years remodeling our house in Spokane, which is why my family has barred me from remodeling our house in Casper," comments Steve. "I would like to own a pick-up, but the cost of having children and grandchildren has doomed me to driving an ugly 1987 Buick that leaks when it rains and has a radio that doesn't work." The entire Region VIII Office congratulates Steve on being named the Regional Employee of the Year.

Colorado



Jeanette Deherrera is the Colorado District Office's 2006 Employee of the Year winner.

Jeanette is an SBA Business Development Specialist based in the Colorado District Office. She has been with the agency for over 20 years. Her main job entails the outreach and marketing of SBA products and services. In addition to her BD duties, she is the Faith-Based and Community Initiative coordinator, Women's Program coordinator, Veterans Outreach coordinator, Native American Business Representative, and the District Office Technical Representative for the Business Women's Center handled out of Mi Casa Resource Center for Women in Pueblo. Jeanette, a native of Denver, has been married for 27 years and has 4 children. She teaches Sunday school class and loves to hike.

Montana



Kelly Dixon receives Montana District Office Employee of the Year Award.

Kelly is the Administrative Officer for the Montana District Office located in Helena. She also serves as the District Office IRM and assists in the 8(a) division. Ms. Dixon began her career with the SBA in 1991 as a Business Development Assistant and has worked her way up to her current position. Kelly resides in Clancy, MT with her husband Scott. She has 3 children ages 22, 15, and 10. Her interests include boating and watching her kids play basketball, hockey, baseball, and soccer. Congratulations Kelly on winning this award!

North Dakota



Mike Gallagher named the North Dakota District Office 2006 Employee of the Year.

Mike serves as the Deputy District Director for the North Dakota District Office. A twenty-two year veteran with the SBA, Gallagher is a former business owner and served as an instructor in a small business adult education program for three years. A graduate of the University of North Dakota (UND), Mike is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and member of the North Dakota Society of CPAs. He is originally from Minot, North Dakota but currently lives with his wife Mary in Halstad, MN. Gallagher has three grown sons, four grandsons and two granddaughters. In his spare time, Mike, his wife Mary, and son Joe work in their seasonal drive-in restaurant. "Working with your family in a small business helps keep you grounded and offers you a better perspective when helping other small business owners," states Mike.

South Dakota



Paul Gunderson named the South Dakota District Office's Employee of the Year.

Paul is a Lender Relations Specialist in the South Dakota District Office, based in Sioux Falls. Paul works extensively South Dakota's 7(a) Participating Lenders and statewide CDCs. He started with the agency over 24 years ago as a temporary Disaster Loan Officer. He has worked at all levels of loan processing, including servicing, and liquidation. "I take pride in developing strong lender relations fostering economic development in South Dakota," states Paul. Born and raised in South Dakota, Paul graduated from the University of South Dakota. He currently resides in Sioux Falls. Paul has been married 23 years to wife Pamela, and has two daughters.

Utah



Georgia Yoshida recognized as the Utah District Office's Employee of the Year winner.

Georgia is a Business Development Specialist in the Utah District Office, which is based in Salt Lake City. She currently serves as the PIO and SCORE liaison. Georgia has worked for the Federal Government for nearly 20 years, with 18 of those years at the SBA. Georgia has been married over 32 years to Max Yoshida, and they have one son. Georgia absolutely adores her son Toby, daughter-in-law Mui, and grandson Taison.

SBA People on the Move



Patricia Barela Rivera, Colorado District Director, will receive the 2007 *Women In Leadership Award* from the Mountain Region Black Economic Summit organization. Patricia was selected for this award because of her "professionalism and dedication to the advancement or females and people of color in business." She will receive her award at the MRBES annual Luncheon on June 8th in Denver.



Lawrence Kiefer, SBA Field Information Technology Specialist - based in Denver, has just completed two courses presented by the Department of Homeland Security Federal Law Enforcement. The first course qualifies Mr. Kiefer as an Adjunct FLETC Instructor. This certification permits Mr. Kiefer to instruct and advise state and local law enforcement officers and victim assistance personnel

in the appropriate techniques in responding to and preventing domestic violence incidents. The second course, qualifies Mr. Kiefer as an Adjunct FLETC Instructor in the Drug Enforcement Training for Patrol Officers course. Mr. Kiefer has attended several FLETC courses at his own expense as a volunteer in community and public service in an effort to combat the growing problems in these areas.